

Reviews Books

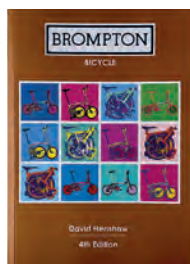
CYCLING INSPIRATION WHEN YOU'RE STUCK INSIDE

Print queue

Cycle doesn't feature all books received. Reviewers pick the ones they think you need to know about from the editor's list. Send books to: Cycle, Cycling UK, Parklands, Railton Rd, Guildford, GU2 9JX



Brompton Bicycle 4th Edition



Details

By: David Henshaw
Publisher: Excellent Books
Price: £12.95
ISBN: 9781901464429

THIS IS THE 4TH EDITION of the long-running Brompton Bicycle book. It's a deep dive into everything Brompton, starting at the very beginning, when the finished bike was a far off vision. It then takes you through to the modern-day Brompton we know and love.

I 'joined the fold' and purchased a Brompton just before reading this book. I'm enjoying the bike, and reading about its history and technical details has only reinforced my belief that I made a wise purchase.

The book begins with the early prototypes and their slow development. Failed attempts, redesigns and funding feature in what was initially a side project for inventor and engineer Andrew Ritchie. It's clear that author David Henshaw (who

still runs alternative transport magazine A to B, atob.org.uk) has a vast knowledge of everything Brompton. He passes this on through maintenance advice, hints and tips and touring suggestions, all of which are supported with great illustrations.

One slight disappointment is the lack of the G-Line, the latest model in the Brompton's range, due to unfortunate timing with its release date just after the book. That's something to look forward to in the fifth edition (assuming there is one).

In summary, if you are a fan of bikes in general, there should be something of interest for you here.

But any Brompton owner is probably going to read this cover to cover and take great pleasure in the story of this unique bike.

Sam Reedman



Excerpts

You can read excerpts from some of the books that Cycle has reviewed at

cyclinguk.org/cycle-book-excerpts



Details

By: Kate Strong
Publisher: Independently published
Price: £10
ISBN: 9798325841767

Climate Cycle

HAVING JOINED PART of Kate Strong's 3,000-mile Climate Cycle around Britain, I was intrigued to read the account of her ride, which connected communities taking action for climate and nature. The book begins by outlining how past experiences led Kate to take on this challenge. I found that part fascinating, although it occasionally strays into self-help book territory. Kate weaves together tales from her ride and the people she meets with her research about the climate crisis. There's a lot to cover, and the book can feel unfocused when it switches topics, but it's a galvanising and thought-provoking read.

Sophie Gordon



Details

By: Ross Hamilton
Publisher: Bradt Guides
Price: £12.99
ISBN: 9781804691359

Cycling in Surrey

FITTING INTO A jersey pocket, this small guidebook packs a lot in. The foreword explains how to use the smartphone app Komoot to navigate, as there are links to GPX files for each route. You'll need these as the printed map in the book is small and sparse. Each chapter is a route in Surrey, with clear directions on where to go and where to stop off. I have cycled in Surrey for most of my life but nevertheless discovered places to ride that I wouldn't have thought of.

Roland Seber



Details

By: Don Stark
Publisher: Independently published
Price: £6.99
ISBN: 9798358062306

Old but Electrified #1 – Scotland

OLD BUT ELECTRIFIED is an apt description of Cycling UK member Don Stark, and it demonstrates well that e-biking is much better than no biking. Following a heart attack after riding the English section of the Great North Trail, he returns 'electrified' to tackle the Scottish majority with his wife. It's an entertaining diary, not a route guide, but is enlivened by Don's philosophical (and sometimes slightly un-PC) musings on life. It should serve as an inspiration to anyone who has thought about riding the route, whether assisted or not.

Ian Small